

The Baysider

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

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FREE

Four out of five ain't bad

Prospect Mountain softball battles past Gilford for Division III title

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

HOLDERNESS — In the last two games of the season, the semifinals and finals, the Prospect Mountain softball team faced two of the best pitchers in Division III in Olivia Packard of White Mountains and Belle Dow of Gilford.

And the Prospect Mountain offense still did its thing.

The Timber Wolves, appearing in their fifth straight Division III championship game, outslugged a gritty and determined Gilford squad on Saturday, June 13, in Holderness to pick up the 9-8 win and their fourth championship in five years.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

The Prospect Mountain softball team celebrates its fourth championship in five years after beating Gilford on Saturday in Holderness.

"Ton of adversity in a game like this," said Prospect Mountain coach James Christie. "The last three

weeks of the season we were peaking, seeing the

ball well, hitting the ball well, we had a great ap-

proach.

"We knew Belle Dow

was going to come and bring it, but I love our approach," the Timber Wolf mentor continued. "We did what we were supposed to do."

"We talked about how great of a season it was and talked about how we worked so hard," said Gilford coach Lisa Brace, a former Gilford player herself about what she told her girls after they came up just short. "They worked so hard, kept their composure and didn't give up."

Kora MacKenzie led off the game for Prospect with

SEE **SOFTBALL**, PAGE **A8**

Gilford Community Church distributes Outreach funds locally

GILFORD — In their continuing effort to give back to the community, the Gilford Community Church distributed a total of \$13,700 in Outreach funds for the second quarter, and the impact of one donation was felt immediately by students at Belmont High School.

"As we approach the end of another remarkable academic year, I am writing to share a profound act of generosity that has deeply impacted our graduating class. Recently, our school district received a transformative monetary donation specifically designated to clear the outstanding school debts of our graduating seniors. In some cases, these accrued fees, if left unpaid, may have unfortunately precluded some students from participating in our upcoming Senior Week activities," said Belmont High School Principal, Matthew Finch.

"I am incredibly touched to report that these funds have already come in handy. For some families navigating difficult financial times, this unexpected gift has provided immediate relief. Without this intervention, some of our students would have faced an impossible financial burden, potentially missing out on the milestone celebrations and the recognition they have so rightfully earned through years of hard

work, dedication, and academic perseverance here at BHS," Finch said.

"High school graduation is a monumental rite of passage. Because of this immense kindness, our senior class can stand together, unburdened by financial stress, to celebrate their achievements. This gift is a powerful reminder of the strength of our community and the deep care that surrounds our students," he added.

Donations were also made to Got Literacy Laconia to purchase new books, the Belmont, Gilford and Laconia Got Lunch programs to help kick off their summer program providing breakfast and lunch to local children, Church of Another Chance towards their YouTube channel setup and the Laconia Congregational Church for their "Love Our Earth" Day event with a focus on protecting our precious environment.

Located in Gilford at 19 Potter Hill Rd., the Gilford Community Church (GCC) is an inclusive, open community that welcomes believers and doubters, seekers and skeptics, young and old. Viewable live on Facebook and available on YouTube, Sunday service at GCC takes place at 10 a.m. To learn more, or virtually attend service, visit www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org.

ALTON — CoSN — The Consortium for School Networking announced recently that Prospect Mountain Schools in Alton has been awarded the Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Mini Seal for the Classroom Practice, helping strengthen data privacy protections for the district's 1,300 students.

The CoSN TLE Seal is a national distinction recognizing school districts that implement strong policies and practices to help protect student data privacy, with the Mini Seal acknowledging progress in one of five key areas: Leadership, Business, Data Security, Professional Development, and the Classroom.

To qualify for the Mini Seal in the Classroom Practice, districts must ensure teachers:

- Implement a curriculum to promote student information literacy, digital citizenship, and Internet safety;
- Remain aware of and regularly use the school system's established process for vetting and procuring online services;
- Model appropriate use and protection of student data for their students; and
- Communicate to parents clearly about the collection, use, and protection of student data.

"Prospect Mountain Schools' TLE Mini Seal achievement highlights

the critical role educators play in protecting student data privacy," said Keith Krueger, CEO, CoSN. "By strengthening classroom practices and fostering transparency with families, the district has furthered its longstanding commitment to safe and responsible digital learning environments."

"This is the culmination of many great educators' and other employees' work. Year after year, the staff, teachers, and administrators in the Prospect Mountain system continue to embrace continuous improvement. I am proud to be associated with all of them. My hat is off to everyone in the IT department and everyone else who

supports their work," said Tim Broadrick, Superintendent, Prospect Mountain Schools.

The CoSN TLE Seal is the only privacy framework designed specifically for school systems. Earning the TLE Seal requires that school systems have taken measurable steps to implement, maintain, and improve organization-wide student data privacy practices. All TLE Seal recipients are required to demonstrate that improvement through a reapplication process every two years. To date, TLE Seal recipients nationwide have improved privacy protections for more than 1.4 million students.

NH Boat Museum to host 50th Annual Alton Bay Boat Show Aug. 8

ALTON BAY — The New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) will host the 50th Annual Alton Bay Boat Show on Saturday, Aug. 8 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Alton Bay Town Docks. The free public event marks a half-century of celebrating New Hampshire's freshwater boating heritage and is among the longest-running vintage boat shows in the region.

"What I love about the Alton Bay Boat Show is how it turns the whole waterfront into a living gallery," noted NHBM Executive Director Devon Kurtz. "Every boat carries a story, every owner is eager to share it, and the community leans in with real affection. It's one of the coolest, most heartfelt days on the lake."

At the show, which features classic wooden and early fiberglass vessels (model year 1975 and earlier), spectators are invited to walk the docks, meet the



owners, and cast ballots for the People's Choice Award.

"This is one of the most exciting events of the summer for the whole family," said NHBM Executive Director Devon Kurtz. "It's truly a remarkable collection of boats, and spectators can get up close and talk with the owners."

Pre-registration is not required, and docking is

first-come, first-served.

"Reaching the 50th anniversary is a significant milestone for the museum and for the boating community across New Hampshire," added Kurtz.

The 50th Annual Alton Bay Boat Show is sponsored by The NASWA Resort, Mundial Group, Inc., and Water's Nook Home Decor and Gifts.

Founded in 1992, NHBM is dedicated to preserving and sharing the state's rich freshwater boating heritage. Through dynamic exhibits, youth programs like Junior Skipper, and on-the-water experiences, NHBM brings New Hampshire's boating story to life for visitors from across the state and beyond.

Before You Build: What New Hampshire Property Owners Should Know

BY DONALD CHAPMAN

President & Co-Founder, Strong Tree Engineering

Across New Hampshire, property owners are continuing to invest in their land - building new homes, adding garages and additions, upgrading septic systems, improving driveways, subdividing family property, and planning future development projects.

But many people quickly discover that building or improving property today involves much more than simply hiring a contractor and starting construction.

Questions about property boundaries, wetlands, drainage, stormwater, septic capacity, zoning setbacks, and local permitting requirements can significantly impact both cost and feasibility. In some cases, these issues are identified too late in the process - after valuable time and money have already been spent.

That's why proper planning up-front matters.

At Strong Tree Engineering, we work with homeowners, contractors, developers, landowners and town authorities throughout New Hampshire to help move projects from concept to construction. Our goal is to identify challenges early, simplify the process where possible, and help clients move projects forward efficiently and responsibly.

Many projects begin with a land

survey.

Accurate survey information is often the foundation for everything that follows - from locating property boundaries and existing features to determining setbacks, easements, topography, and buildable area. Whether someone is planning a new home, subdivision, addition, driveway, or commercial project, understanding the property itself is the critical first step. From there, civil engineering and site planning often come into play.

In New Hampshire, drainage and stormwater management are increasingly important components of development projects. Poor drainage can create long-term issues for both property owners and neighboring properties, especially with the heavier rain events we've seen in recent years. Proper grading, drainage design, and stormwater management help protect investments and improve long-term property performance.

Wastewater and septic planning are also major considerations throughout rural communities where municipal sewer infrastructure may not exist. Aging septic systems, limited soils, and changing property use can all create challenges that require careful engineering and permitting support.

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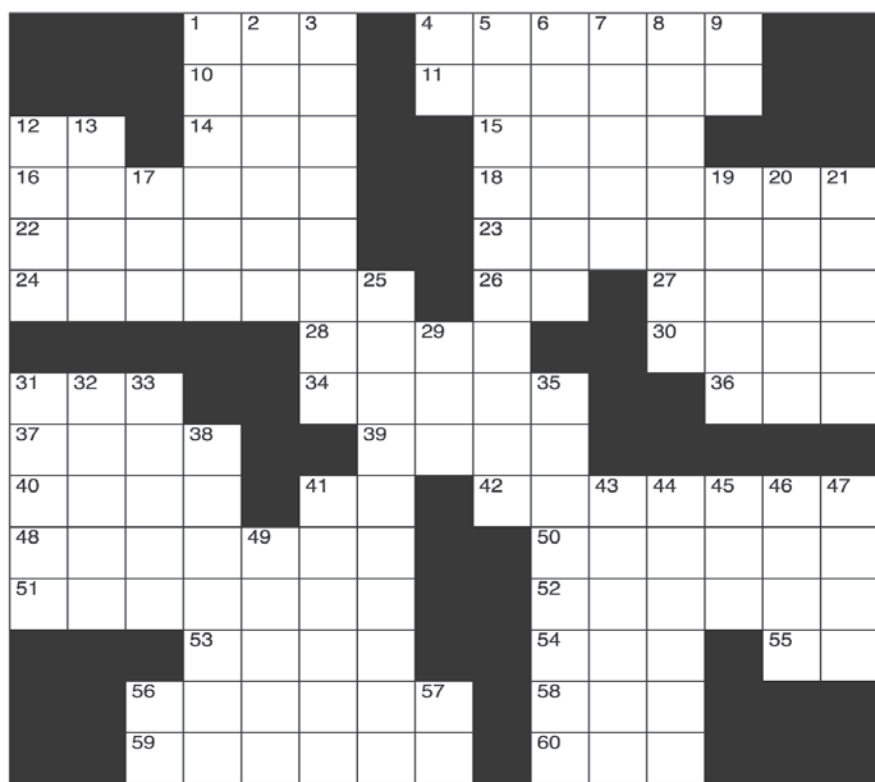


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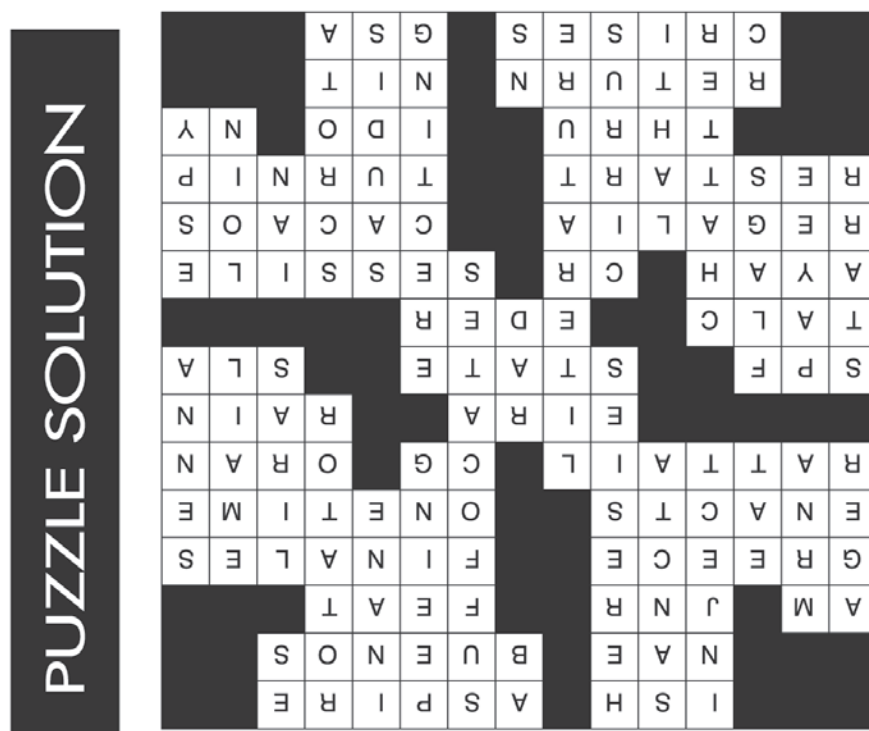


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Similar
- 4. Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
- 10. No (Scottish)
- 11. ___ Aires, city
- 12. Morning
- 14. Senior's son (abbr.)
- 15. A notable achievement
- 16. European nation
- 18. Endings
- 22. Puts into place
- 23. Former
- 24. Grenadier
- 26. Sea patrol
- 27. Algerian port
- 28. Norwegian river
- 30. Precipitation
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. New York is one
- 36. Patti Hearst's captors
- 37. Soft mineral with greasy feel
- 39. Retired Brazilian footballer
- 40. An Indian nursemaid
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Immobile
- 48. Insignia of royalty
- 50. Seeds from which chocolate is made
- 51. Begin again
- 52. Round root
- 53. Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
- 54. What newlyweds just said
- 55. Empire State
- 56. Give back
- 58. College hoops tournament
- 59. Unstable situations
- 60. Young women's association

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Administer a drug
- 2. Holy places
- 3. Contrary opinions
- 4. Blood type
- 5. Gags
- 6. Micturating
- 7. Silly
- 8. A type of "cuff"
- 9. Spanish be
- 12. Austrian river
- 13. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 17. Consume food
- 19. California supermarket
- 20. Electronic communication
- 21. Cassia tree
- 25. Written works
- 29. Cool!
- 31. Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
- 32. One who was compensated
- 33. National symbols
- 35. Raising
- 38. A type of talk
- 41. Cloud
- 43. Middle Eastern peoples
- 44. Pouches
- 45. 007's creator
- 46. A cut of meat
- 47. Sports entertainment award
- 49. Christine __, actress
- 56. Relief organization (abbr.)
- 57. Canadian province (abbr.)



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Alton Parks and Recreation Community Connection

USTA Summer tennis lessons — Youth

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Tennis in the Parks for Grades 1-8 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Liberty Tree Park Tennis Courts from July 28-Aug. 13. Grades are divided by times: 4:15-5:15 p.m.- Grades 1-4; 6:45-7:45 p.m.- Grades 5-8. Registration is \$65 and includes a brand-new tennis racket for new players, and instruction with a USTA New England certified instructor. Basic tennis skills will be taught- forehand, backhand, serve, overhand and volley. Register now as class size is limited. Registration forms are available at www.alton.nh.gov or stop by the Parks and Recreation Kiosk at 328 Main St. to sign up. Contact parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109 for more information.

Alton Bay fireworks

The Town of Alton is sponsoring Fireworks in celebration of Independence Day in Alton Bay on Friday, July 3 at 9:20 p.m., rain date is Sun-

day, July 5.

Alton Bay Concerts at the Bandstand 2026

Summer Concert Schedule: 7-9 p.m. at the Alton Bay Bandstand, Alton Bay
July 3- Dakota Smart- Alton native and six-time nominee for the New England Music Awards- Folk-County and Pop-Country. Fireworks to follow at 9:20 p.m.; July 4- Saxx Roxx- Classic Rock with brass; July 11- "Thursday Afternoon Band"- Classic and Modern Rock- July 18- The Visitors- Oldies, Classic Rock, Country Rock; July 25- Got It Covered Band- Cover Songs; Aug. 1- Quint E. Sential Band- Country Rock and popular songs; Aug. 8- Bittersweet- Classic Rock; Aug. 15- Mutha Hubbard Band- high energy Country Band; Aug. 22- Saxx Roxx- back by popular demand and Aug. 29- Cool Beans- '60s and '70s Rock.

July 3 events — Alton Bay

Live Band Concert featuring Dakota Smart, singer-songwriter from

Alton and graduate of Prospect Mountain High School. Dakota is bringing his full band playing classic rock, country, and original music and is excited to play for his hometown from 7-9 p.m. at the Alton Bay Bandstand. Following the band concert, the American Legion will present Taps and patriotic words celebrating the United States 250th anniversary of Independence. Fireworks will follow at 9:20 p.m.

Paint Night on the Land Bandstand With Anne Morrell

Alton Parks and Recreation is sponsoring an outdoor Paint Night with instructor Anne Morrell at the Alton Bay Bandstand on Wednesday, July 29 from 6-7:30 p.m., rain date is July 30. Scene is a mountain view landscape with soft blues of the lake and green trees on the mountain top. All supplies are included, \$25 for adults; \$15 for children 12 and under; pay instructor on site. View the painting example on the Alton Parks and Recreation Face Book Page or ask

for a copy to be emailed to you. All abilities are welcome. Bring a friend or sign up solo. Please RSVP with your name and contact information to parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or call 603-875-0109. Register early as space is limited.

Pick Up Pickleball games

Pick up Pickleball games are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-noon at the Liberty Tree Park Tennis Courts. Beginners are welcome, bring your own equipment. Courts are located behind 65 Frank C. Gilman Highway. Parking is across the street next to Mill Pond and by the Water Department. For more information contact parksrec@alton.nh.gov.

Guided Meditation

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of the Gilman Library are sponsoring Guided Meditation with Karen Kharitonov on Thursdays: June 25, July 9 and 16 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. at the Gilman Library, Agnes Thompson Meeting Room.

The program is free, donations accepted to benefit the food pantry. For more information, contact Alton Parks and Recreation at parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Dungeons and Dragons

Alton Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a weekly Dungeons and Dragons adventure on Wednesdays at the Alton Bay Community Center from 6-8 p.m. The program is free for ages 18 and up. Sign up at parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109

to secure your game slot. Join in the fun with friends or plan on meeting new people.

Water Bandstand Committee Presents

Live Music Concert- The Water Bandstand Committee is sponsoring the "Thursday Afternoon Band" on Aug. 14 from 7-9 p.m. at the Alton Bay Land Bandstand. The Committee is also sponsoring the "Maine Attraction Water Ski Show Team" on Saturday, Aug. 22 at 3 p.m. in Alton Bay. Rain date is Sunday, Aug. 23.

Alton Police Activity Report

ALTON — The Alton Police Department responded to 561 calls for service during the month of May, including 124 motor vehicle stops, 12 accidents, 35 investigations, and nine arrests.

Of the arrests, three were individuals taken into protective custody,

one was made in connection with a warrant, one for Domestic Assault, one for Criminal Mischief, one for Driving After Suspension of license for Driving Under the Influence (DUI), one for DUI, and one for Allowing an Improper Person to Drive.

Friends of New Durham Library announce Book, Bake and Plant Sale

NEW DURHAM — The Friends of the New Durham Public Library will have a Book, Baked Goods and Plant Sale on

the Library grounds on Saturday June 20 from 9 a.m. to noon. Please stop by at this outdoor event. There will be

many books for sale. The plants were donated by Pearson's Greenhouse.

The members of the Friends of the Library have been busy baking

lots of homemade goodies for sale. We look forward to seeing you at this annual summer event.

Gilford Public Library Top Ten Requests (Plus Two)

1. "Rockets Red Glare" by James Patterson
2. "26 Beauties" by James Patterson
3. "The Things We Never Say" by Elizabeth Strout
4. "The Mother-Daughter Book Club" by Sue Patterson
5. "Whistler" by Ann Patchett
6. "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi
7. "Ironwood" by Michael Connelly
8. "Hope Rises" by David Baldacci
9. "The Final Target" by Nora Roberts
10. "Project Hail Mary" by Andy Weir
11. "The Last Mandarin" by Louise Penny
12. "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Twitch!

Twitch is a rare and radiant orange girl with a personality that's impossible to ignore. She's wonderfully talkative — the kind of cat who believes every moment deserves commentary, especially if snacks might be involved. Whether she's chirping, meowing, or softly narrating her day, Twitch always has

Meet Dooz!

Dooz is a tiny puppy with a giant personality packed into one ridiculously cute little body. This sweet boy is full of happy energy, curious adventures, and gentle affection. He bounces through life with the confidence of a much larger

something to say and she fully expects you to listen. This bright little girl is equal parts sweet and opinionated, with a charming knack for showing up exactly when treats are being considered. She loves food, loves attention, and loves making sure you never forget she exists (as if you could). Her expressive nature makes her feel more like a tiny, furry roommate who keeps the conversation going all day long. Twitch is looking for a home that appreciates a social, snack-motivated companion with a big heart and even bigger personality. Life with her will never be quiet — but it will definitely be fun.

Dooz, even if his little legs occasionally cannot keep up with his enthusiasm. Dooz loves people, loves attention, and is always ready to turn an ordinary moment into a puppy party. He would happily accept a full-time position as your shadow, cuddle buddy, and household entertainment coordinator. If you are looking for a puppy who will keep you smiling daily while also melting into your lap for naps, Dooz is very prepared to apply for the role.

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Opinion

SECTION A, PAGE 4

SALMON PRESS, THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

More than a championship

For seven innings on a June afternoon in Holderness, two softball teams demonstrated exactly why high school athletics remain one of the strongest traditions in our communities.

The Division III championship game between Gilford and Prospect Mountain was not merely a contest for a trophy. It was a showcase of preparation, perseverance, teamwork, and character. While Prospect Mountain ultimately emerged with a 9-8 victory and its fourth state title in five years, both teams left the field having represented their schools and communities with distinction.

Championship games often become remembered for a single moment. A game-winning hit. A spectacular catch. A final out. This game had all of those moments and more. It also featured something equally important: neither team ever stopped competing.

Prospect Mountain built leads. Gilford answered. The Timber Wolves appeared ready to pull away after a sixth-inning grand slam from Paityn Glidden created a four-run advantage. Yet Gilford immediately battled back, cutting the deficit and forcing tension into every remaining pitch. Even in the final inning, the Golden Eagles refused to surrender, bringing the tying run aboard before Prospect finally secured the last out.

That determination speaks volumes about both programs.

Success in athletics is often measured by banners and trophies, but the foundation of lasting programs is built long before championship day arrives. It is built during winter workouts, early spring practices, bus rides, extra batting practice sessions, and countless hours spent improving skills when no one is watching.

Gilford's season was remarkable. The Golden Eagles finished 15-1, earned the top seed in the tournament, and defeated defending champion St. Thomas to reach the finals. Along the way, they displayed the grit and confidence that define successful teams. Their ability to battle back repeatedly in the championship game reflected the culture Coach Lisa Brace and her staff have built.

The game also served as a fitting tribute to senior pitcher Belle Dow, whose leadership and composure helped carry Gilford to two championship game appearances during her career. Her ability to remain steady regardless of circumstance is a lesson that extends well beyond the softball field.

For Prospect Mountain, the victory represented redemption. After falling short in last year's championship game, the Timber Wolves returned with renewed focus and determination. Coach James Christie's comments afterward reflected a truth every athlete eventually learns: setbacks often become the fuel for future success. The disappointment of 2025 helped shape the championship run of 2026.

What makes local high school sports special is that they belong to entire communities. Students, parents, grandparents, teachers, and neighbors all invest emotionally in these teams. Victories are celebrated collectively, and losses are shared together. On championship day, both schools had communities they could be proud of.

In an era when youth sports can sometimes become consumed by rankings, statistics, and individual recognition, this game reminded us of what matters most. Teammates supporting one another. Coaches teaching life lessons. Players responding to adversity with determination instead of excuses.

One team carried home the championship plaque. Both teams carried home something equally valuable: the knowledge that they represented their schools with effort, integrity, and pride.

Years from now, many of these players may not remember every score or statistic. They will remember the friendships, the challenges, the lessons learned, and the feeling of competing on the biggest stage their sport could offer.

That is the true value of high school athletics, and this championship game provided a memorable reminder of it.



COURTESY PHOTO

Greening the Kingswood Regional High School (KRHS) and Lakes Region Technical Center (LRTC) campus continued in June as the National Future Farms of America (FFA) chapter planted a Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn donated by the Wolfeboro Conservation Commission. The flowering tree that can grow to 30-feet tall, produces thorn apples that feed wildlife. Planting the tree outside the KRHS Arts Center were, left to right: Bob Gagne, FFA adviser and LRTC Agricultural Science Teacher; Grady Whitcomb, LRTC student and FFA chapter vice president; Jeff Marchand, member, Wolfeboro Conservation Commission; Leah Glazier, LRTC student and FFA chapter Sentinel.

LETTERS FROM EDWIN

Overconfident

There's more than one way to mow a camp. I got asked to mow the grass down at the little beach place I usually snooze and swim at during the summer. She said that it was getting kind of long. That would mean that their old manual push, real type mower, would be difficult. They don't like long stuff. She offered her little gas mower and a weed wacker. That was good as my weed wacker hasn't started in years.

I have one of them pre-string-trimmer swingy things that's a lot of work, but it's good to take the long stuff down before making things more even with the reel mower. I was considering that when I came up with an alternative. I have a 20-inch plug in electric mower that's a beast, is real light, and would be perfect. It's easy to transport to customers places, but there's no power at this one.

Seeing as it needs 12-gauge wire and I don't have enough length to make it to the neighbors house where I could steal some juice from his outside outlet.

Like when I build the stairs. It seemed that I was out of luck. Then I remembered that I had bought an inverter for just such instances.

I did some quick math; 12 amps times 120 volts makes 1440 watts. It's a 2,000-watt inverter so it should work. I threw everything in the truck and headed off. After setting it all up at the lake, I switched it ON, it burped, the overload indicator came ON on the inverter. I thought myself a bit overconfident. Before the mower stopped spinning the inverter kicked back on again and zoom, the thing cranked up. It didn't appreciate the turn on transient.

I mowed everything, leaving a few nice wild-flowers as I always do, then thought I ought to set up the hammock. So I did, I even oiled the rusty metal pieces which should help dismantling it again in the fall. Looking in the shed I couldn't find the hammock. To bad. I did find an air mattress that was still blown up though, so I threw that down to lie on for a few minutes. A male mallard swam by

and caught a fish right out in front of me. There's lunch.

This time of year he's about the only thing I could expect to see here on the lake. No boats. No kids. I mean, schools not out for another two weeks.

The other day I did another mowing job, my back is still upset with me over that one. It was on a riding mower and I spent four hours being jostled around in it's seat. When I got there I looked out across the grounds and saw that much of the mowing had already been done. The guys son had come by and helped his father out. Such a blessing.

On my way to the motor shed, I looked out to the orchard and saw that the yellow Indian paintbrushes were blooming and the orange ones were getting ready to. Knowing of all his wildflower patches that he wants me to avoid, I wondered if his son was so persnickety. I should have known that his son would have been well versed in letting the wildflowers grow, for as I headed out through where he had mowed, there were all kinds

of flower saving patches.

It's so comfortable down here at the beach. I know that it's usually ten degrees warmer up at the house. I have work to do there too, but it's after three o'clock on this gorgeous Friday afternoon. Earlier, I went to the town hall to do some business and ended up being there for an hour. I thought that it would be a quick little in and out, but there was a waiting line and things take time.

I should have left and got on with the rest of my day, but I got to talking with this almost four-year-old boy who liked hopping around on his cool lighting up sneakers that were wearing out but were still special to him. We talked about the man's cool motorcycle helmet that was in line ahead of his father. I told him that my son has one that's more aerodynamically cool, and red. He preferred the black one. His sneakers were black too.

E.Twaste

Correspondence welcome at edwintwaste@gmail.com

The things we learn too late

Father's Day always sneaks up on me. Not because I forget it's coming. The calendars remind us. The stores remind us. Every display of neckties, grilling tools and coffee mugs seems determined to make sure nobody misses it. What catches me off guard is something else entirely. It is how differently I think about fathers now than I did when I was younger.

When you're a child, your father seems larger than life. He knows how to fix things, where to go, and what to do when something breaks. If the power goes out, Dad has a flashlight ready. If the dog escapes the yard, Dad somehow knows exactly where to look. As children, we often assume our fathers have all the answers. Then, somewhere around the teenage years, a remarkable transformation occurs. Suddenly the man who seemed to know everything appears to know very little at all. It is a phenomenon that has played out in households across generations. One day Dad is an expert. The next day he is hopelessly out of touch.

Eventually, if life is kind, something changes again. You grow older. You get a job, buy a home, raise children, pay bills and take on responsibilities of your own. The things that once looked simple begin to reveal their complexity. You discover that keeping a household running is not as easy as it appeared when you were 16 years old. Then one day

you hear yourself saying something your father used to say. It might be advice about money, a reminder about punctuality, or a warning that shortcuts usually create more work in the end. The words leave your mouth and you stop for a moment, realizing that perhaps the old man knew a thing or two after all.

My father and I did not always see eye to eye. Looking back, I suspect many fathers and sons could tell a similar story. He belonged to a generation that did not spend much time talking about feelings. They were not raised to express affection through long conversations or emotional speeches. Instead, they showed love through work. Responsibility was how they demonstrated commitment. They provided for their families, showed up every day, and did what needed to be done. As a younger man, I did not always understand that. Like many people, I focused more on what was not said than on what was being demonstrated every single day.

The older I get, however, the more I appreciate the things that once seemed ordinary. I think about the early mornings and the long workdays. I think about the sacrifices that were made quietly, without complaint or expectation of recognition. I think about the worries carried privately and the responsibilities should

KIND HEARTS, COLD WINTERS By CHIPPY

dered without fanfare. Most fathers never receive awards for those efforts. There are no parades for paying the mortgage on time, fixing a leaky faucet, coaching Little League, or driving a tired teenager to an early morning practice. Yet those small acts of reliability and commitment become the foundation upon which families are built.

Here in New Hampshire, we have always respected people who work hard without making a spectacle of themselves. Many of the fathers I grew up around fit that description perfectly. They were mechanics, teachers, truck drivers, carpenters, business owners, farmers, veterans and factory workers. They came from different backgrounds and had different personalities, but they shared a common belief that showing up mattered. Most of them were not perfect, and none would have claimed to be. They made mistakes, lost their tempers from time to time, and occasionally got things wrong. But they kept trying. In the end, that may be one of the most important lessons they passed along. Not perfection, but effort. Not always succeeding, but continuing to move forward.

This Father's Day, many families will gather around backyard grills, restaurant tables and living room couches. Phone calls will be made. Cards will be exchanged. Children and

grandchildren will spend time with the men who helped shape their lives. Others, however, will spend the day remembering fathers who are no longer here. For them, Father's Day can feel a little quieter and a little more reflective. Yet memories have a way of lingering. A familiar phrase, an old photograph, a favorite tool hanging in the garage, or a habit you did not realize you inherited can suddenly bring someone back into focus. A father who has been gone for years can feel surprisingly close in those moments.

As for me, Father's Day has become less about gifts and more about gratitude. Gratitude for lessons that took years to understand. Gratitude for examples that only became clear with age. Gratitude for the realization that many of the things we question when we are young begin to make sense as we grow older. We spend much of our lives trying to become our own people, carving out our own identities and making our own decisions. Then one day we discover that pieces of the people who raised us have quietly traveled alongside us all along.

Perhaps that is the real meaning of Father's Day. It is not a celebration of perfect fathers, because no such thing exists. Instead, it is a chance to honor the imperfect men who did their best, taught us what they could, and left us carrying a little piece of them wherever life takes us.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

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From the Alton Selectmen's Office

BY RICHARD SHEA

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Alton Board of Selectmen's meeting on June 9th covered several issues. Here is a brief review of the major items:

-The Board voted to hire Cameron Armstrong as Town Planner. Mr. Armstrong was a Senior Planner in Myrtle Beach South Carolina and holds a master's degree in public administration from Eastern Michigan University.

-The Board reviewed the results of the June 6 budget vote. The final tally was 500 in favor, 388 opposed, a 56 percent approval rating. It

was agreed that the voter turnout was good for a non-major election.

-The issue with roadside signs was discussed. Signs in the public right-of-way are prohibited by Alton's zoning regulations (Section 340), and it was agreed that they are unsightly. The Board directed the Public Works Department to remove such signs when manpower permits. Removed signs will be held at the Public Works facility for 30 days before disposal so owners can claim them.

-An explanation was offered regarding the Building Inspector po-

sition. Board member Drew Carter had applied for the position and was the most qualified candidate by any measure. He was offered the job, but the offer had to be withdrawn when it became known that a warrant article was passed several years ago which prohibited elected officials from accepting employment with the town for 2 years after completing their term or resigning.

-Replacement of a bridge on Roberts Cove Road is set to start on July 6. The road will be closed to thru traffic. Completion is planned

for July 21, weather permitting. A detailed construction schedule will be posted on the DPW website.

-The state-mandated listing of overdue dog licenses (currently numbering 410) was reviewed. Dog owners will receive a call advising them of the overdue status. Those not responding by June 20 will receive a notice by certified mail and fined \$25.

-The Board reviewed a detailed proposal from Epic Seaplane Adventures to lease a town-owned site on Alton Bay for a seaplane docking facility. It was decid-

ed to further review the proposal and agreed that a public hearing would be held at a yet-to-be-determined date to receive input from residents and answer questions.

-It was announced that volunteers have cleaned, repaired and power washed the water bandstand, and decorated it extensively for the 4th of July celebration.

-A recurring subject throughout the meeting was the need for better communication between Town Government and the public. Public input included a suggestion that department heads appear periodically at

Selectmen's meetings to discuss activities of their departments and where they stand in relation to their budgets. It was also decided to have Information Technology Director Josh Monaco meet with the Board to determine steps needed to improve and expand the town website.

Author's Note: This article is offered as part of an effort to better inform Alton residents about the activities of town government. I am not authorized to speak for the Board of Selectmen, and this article represents only my impressions and views.

Wright Museum to host lecture and book signing by Doug Most

WOLFEBORO — On Tuesday, June 23, the Wright Museum will welcome Doug Most. This is the fifth program of the Wright Museum's 2026 Education Series.

This enduring book tells the heroic, gripping, yet overlooked story of one of World War II's monumental achievements—the building of America's fleet of Liberty ships.

With the shadow of war looming large over American life in 1940,

President Franklin D. Roosevelt knew it wasn't a matter of if the United States would be pulled into battle, but when. He foresaw a "new kind of war," one that would demand the nation be prepared in ways like never before. America's most critical need in preparation was not drafting more soldiers or manufacturing more guns. It was building more ships that could carry enormous supplies of weapons, vehicles, medical

gear, food, and clothing to US and allied troops around the world. One ship could feed three million men for a day—an entire fleet could sustain troops for years.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m., the program begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23 at the Wright Museum's DuQuoin Education Center, 77 Center St. in Wolfeboro. Admission is \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members. Reservations are strongly encouraged and

can be made online at <https://wrightmuseum.org/lecture-series> or by calling 603-569-1212.

The region's leading resource for educators and learners of all ages on World War II, the Wright Museum features more than 14,000 items in its collection that are representative of both the home front and battlefield. For more information about the 2026 Lecture Series, or museum, visit wrightmuseum.org.

All Saints Church gearing up for Summer Fair

WOLFEBORO — With spring cleaning season fully underway, we encourage community members to consider donating their gently used items to our fundraising event. In preparation for the 64th Annual All Saints Summer Fair, we are seeking donations. We will be collecting donations from Monday, June 15 through Monday, July 13. During these dates, you can drop off your donations in the Church Hall.

Acceptable donations include: toys, children's sporting goods, glassware, collectibles, dishes, home goods, linens, fabric, craft supplies, books written on or after 2000, jewelry, hand and power tools, and not-so-large Silent Auction items. We do not accept adult sporting goods, textbooks, encyclopedias, rugs, infant and children car seats, magazines, curtains, deco-

rative and bed pillows, fabric scraps, electronics, furniture and pet supplies.

The Summer Fair will be held on Saturday, July 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Summer Fair is an All Saints Church tradition that helps serve the community of Wolfeboro and the Lakes Region. The fair also offers baked goods and delicious food options. This year we invite you to visit our new labyrinth in the courtyard along with an opportunity to receive prayer requests

Proceeds from the Summer Fair help support the outreach and service ministries of All Saints Church. Bring along your shopping bags and be sure to check out the Summer Fair this year. It is a wonderful opportunity to have fun as we gather as a community of faith to support those throughout the Lakes Region.

Lasell University students named to Spring Dean's List

NEWTON, Mass. — Lasell University congratulates the following students on being named to the Dean's List for the spring semester of 2026 at Lasell University.

The Dean's List includes students who have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Allyssa Stone of La-

conia

Emily Watson of Gil-

ford

Carson Tucker of La-

conia

Stone Wall Repair

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Gilford Public Library Classes & Special Events June 18 - June 25

Thursday, June 18
Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m.

Fun and Fitness with Joyce, 10-11 a.m.

French, 4-5 p.m.
Book Discussion: Raising Hare, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

This month's book is "Raising Hare" by Chloe Dalton. Led by Katherine and Betty; books are available at the front desk.

Friday, June 19
Geri Fit, 9-10 a.m.

Bridge, 10 a.m.-noon
Rooted and Rising, 10-11 a.m.

Hand & Foot, noon to 2:30 p.m.

Happy Crafters, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Advanced Conversational German, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Beginner Line Dancing, 4-5 p.m.

Saturday, June 20
Beginner Line Dancing, 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Drop-In Father's Day Craft, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Make a thoughtful popcorn craft for your favorite pop!

Monday, June 22
Fun & Fitness with Joyce, 9-10 a.m.

Tai Chi, 10:15-11 a.m.

Mahjong, noon to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23
Feel Good Fitness w/

Dottie, 9-10 a.m.

Senior Sculpt, 10-11 a.m.

Bridge, 10 a.m.-noon
Summer Camp Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Beginner Line Dancing, 4-5 p.m.

Wednesday, June 24
Geri Fit, 9-10 a.m.

Card Games, 10 a.m.-noon

Senior Stretch Yogaah!, 10-11 a.m.

Check out an Expert, 10 a.m.-noon

Books in Bloom Flower Vase - Adult Craft, 1-2 p.m.

Come celebrate our summer reading kick off - Plant a Seed, Read with creating a Book Flower Vase. It is a beautiful

way to upcycle an old book and repurpose it into beautiful home decor for a book lover.

Sign-up is required. Cost - \$1

Paint Group, 1-3 p.m.
Summer Reading Kickoff!, 4-5 p.m.

Join in on the celebration of our S.R.P. Kick-off by signing up and enjoying the festivities! There will be a big bouncy house and freebies from the Kona Ice Truck!

Thursday, June 25
Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m.

Fun & Fitness with Joyce, 10-11 a.m.

French, 4-5 p.m.

Area residents named to Dean's List at University of New England

BIDDEFORD/PORTLAND, Maine — Abigail Argue of Alton; Brooke Pepe of Center Barnstead; Haukur Karlsson of Gilford; Marena Beale of Gilman; and Maya Colson of New Durham have been named to the University of New England's Dean's List for the spring semester 2026. Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

The University of New England is Maine's largest independent university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind

study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state's top provider of health professionals and home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, physician assistant program, and pharmacy school, in addition to a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social

sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts.

Visit www.une.edu.

Alton Garden Club meets June 23

ALTON — The Alton Garden Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, June 23 at Gilman Library, with our program starting at the usual time of 1:30 p.m. Our speaker will be Laura Pomerleau of Blue Winds Lavender Farm in Strafford.

Blue Winds was established in 2021 by Laura and Jon Pomerleau, who were then able to realize their dream inspired by energy, passion and a love of nature. Blue Winds grows four varieties of culinary and herbal lavender and

offers a wide array of hand-crafted lavender bath & body, culinary, house and home products that Laura will display. Laura will take us through her journey in lavender farming and answer any questions that we have. June is perfect timing for Laura's presentation with lavender in full bloom and offering its calming, comforting fragrance.

Guests are always welcome to join us for our presentations. If you have questions, call Peggy McKinney at 603-776-6032.

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SPORTS

Timber Wolves book fifth straight trip to Division III finals Prospect Mountain softball rolls past White Mountains in Final Four



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Paige Harding leads the charge out to congratulate Ashlynn Roberts after Roberts had the game-clinching hit in the Division III semifinals last Thursday.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Kora MacKenzie (65) gets a high five from Paityn Glidden after scoring a run in the Division III semifinals last week.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

HOLDERNESS — The potent Prospect

Mountain offense plated seven runs in the second inning to break open a close game against



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Kourtney Kaplan rounds third on her way to scoring a run in action against White Mountains in last Thursday's semifinal game in Holderness.

One run enough as Dow shuts down Saints in semifinals

Gilford softball beats defending champs to advance to Division III title game

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

HOLDERNESS — It was a day later than originally planned, but the results were exactly what the Gilford softball team was looking for, as the top-ranked Golden Eagles scored the game's lone run and knocked off St. Thomas by a 1-0 score in the Division III semifinals on Thursday, June 11, in Holderness.

The game was originally scheduled for a day earlier, but had to be postponed when thunder and lightning moved through the area, forcing the postponement of three of the four games scheduled to take place.

The Golden Eagles pushed across a run in the bottom of the fourth inning and held off the defending champs behind the domination of pitcher Belle Dow on the way to the 1-0 win to set up a rematch of the 2024 championship game with neighboring Prospect Mountain.

Dow gave up a two-out hit in the top of the first inning but struck out the side around the hit and Madi Metz led off the bottom of the first with a base hit. She was cut down at second on a grounder to short from Addison Hodsdon, who in turn was cut down on a grounder to short by Dow and the Golden Eagles couldn't get the run home.

Dow retired the side in order in the top of the second inning and Mia Macaione singled to lead off the bottom of the second. One out later, Taryn Limanni moved Macaione to second base with a grounder but the St. Thomas first baseman snared a rip from Lucy Akerstrom to end the inning.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Pitcher Belle Dow (center) is mobbed by teammates after getting a strikeout to clinch the Division III semifinals last Thursday.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Mia Macaione settles under a pop fly during action against St. Thomas in the Division III semifinals last week.

The Saints had a one-out single in the top of the third inning but Dow again struck out the side, keeping St. Thomas from pushing a run across the plate. Hodsdon singled with two outs in the bottom of the third inning but she was stranded on the bases and the game remained scoreless after three.

The Saint leadoff hitter reached on an error to open the top of the fourth inning, stole second and got to third on an error before Dow re-



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Lucy Akerstrom comes up throwing at third base during the Division III semifinals last Thursday in Holderness.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Taryn Limanni connects with a pitch during her team's semifinal game with St. Thomas last week.

tired the next three batters in order and Gilford took the lead in the bottom of the inning. Taylor Marsh led off with a base hit and moved

to second on a sacrifice bunt from Macaione. Kate Taylor then doubled home Marsh and Gilford had the 1-0 lead after four innings of work.

Dow retired the side in order in the top of the fifth inning and Leah Scudder reached on an error to open the bottom of the inning. Two outs later, Dow had an infield hit, but Scudder was gunned down at third base to end the inning.

Dow once again set the side down in order in the sixth inning and Marsh singled to open the bottom of the inning, though she was stranded on the bases. Dow then came out and set the side down in order in the top of the seventh inning, including a strikeout of the final batter, her 15th of the game, to clinch Gilford's spot in the Division III finals.

The Golden Eagles faced off with neighboring Prospect Mountain in the Division III finals on Saturday.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Taylor Greenwood takes a lead off second base during semifinal action last Thursday in Holderness.

White Mountains Regional in the Division III semifinals on Thursday, June 11, in Holderness.

The game was postponed a day due to Wednesday's thunder, lightning and rain and the two teams squared off with a spot in the Division III finals on the line, with the Timber Wolves taking the 13-1 win to book another trip to the championship game.

Prospect Mountain pitcher Sophia Bowman shut down the Spartans in order in the top of the first inning and Prospect went right to work in the bottom of the frame. Kora MacKenzie led off with a triple to left field and scored on a wild pitch to give the Timber Wolves a 1-0 lead one batter into the game before Spartan pitcher Olivia Packard set down the next three batters.

Bowman again set the side down in order in the second and the Timber Wolf bats came alive in the bottom of the frame. After Taylor Greenwood led off with a triple, Leila Hillsgrove worked a walk and a double from Ashlynn Roberts drove home both runners for the 3-0 lead. Kourtney Kaplan doubled to right field and Roberts scored on a fielder's choice from MacKenzie for the 4-0 lead. Paige Harding then drove in both runners with a base hit for the 6-0 lead, stole second and scored on a base hit from Kylee Guptill. Bowman then singled home courtesy runner Katie Smith for the 8-0 lead and Greenwood singled but Packard got a strikeout to end the inning, with Prospect up 8-0 after two.

Rachel Bolduc worked a two-out walk in the top of the third inning but Bowman worked around the walk and Prospect added to the lead in the bottom of the third. Roberts beat out an infield hit to start the inning and Kaplan singled to right. One out later, Harding doubled both runners up for the 10-0 lead be-

fore Packard retired the next two batters.

Jena Kenison had the first hit of the day for the Spartans in the top of the fourth, singling to right field. She stole second and Alexis Hicks worked a walk before Bowman got out of the inning with a strikeout. Packard responded by striking out the side in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Hannah Kenison walked to open the top of the fifth inning, Karmyn Young was hit by a pitch and Bolduc walked to load the bases with nobody out. Bowman got a strikeout but Hannah Samson delivered a bunt hit to drive in the first run of the game for White Mountains. Bowman was able to get a strikeout and a popup to end the inning. Roberts singled to open the bottom of the fifth and she scored on a two-out triple from Harding, who then scored on an error for the 12-1 lead after five.

Bowman retired the side in order in the top of the sixth inning and the Timber Wolves scored the winning run in the bottom of the frame. Bowman doubled to open the frame and Bailey Tesseyman took over on the bases. Two outs later, Roberts singled home Tesseyman and Prospect had the 13-1 win to head back to the Division III finals for the fifth year in a row.

Bowman finished with 11 strikeouts on the afternoon while Packard finished with 10.

Prospect Mountain took on Gilford in the Division III finals on Saturday while White Mountains finished the regular season at 14-2 to earn the third seed in the Division III tournament, beating Stevens and Trinity to advance to the semifinals.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

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SPORTS

Lamotte named Division III Player of the Year

Onos, Nicolas earn All-State honors, Gilford boys, PMHS girls win Sportsmanship Awards



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Prospect Mountain's Lena Lamotte was named the Division III Player of the Year for her tennis season.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Jade Nicolas of Gilford was named Division III All-State First Team for her senior season.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Gilford's Ally Onos earned Division III First Team All-State honors for her final season.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, monpress.news@salmonpress.com or josh@salmonpress.com.

Welcome to title town Kingswood baseball and softball teams both win championships on thrilling Saturday



JOSHUA SPAULDING

The Kingswood baseball and softball teams pose for a photo after the softball team won the Division II state championship on Saturday in Holderness. The baseball team won the Division II title earlier in the day in Manchester.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

WOLFEBORO — It was a day like no other in Kingswood Regional High School history.

A day after graduation, the Knights brought home two team state championships in one day, something that, in the memory of those who have been around the school for a long time, believe has never happened before.

Not only that, there's no memory of the school winning two team championships in the same season in the past.

The day started with a bang, as the Kingswood baseball team brought the Knight fans some morning excitement at Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester, scoring eight runs in the first inning. However, St. Thomas didn't go away, battling all the way back to tie the game and then take the lead by a 9-8 score.

Kingswood was able to tie the score and appeared to take the lead on a sacrifice fly from Mason Beaulieu in the fifth inning, but the umpire ruled that the runner at third had left early and the game remained tied at nine heading to the seventh.

Kolby Brown, who battled all day on the mound, struck out his final two batters of the day to reach the pitch limit, gave way to Nate Cloos, who got the final out of the top of the seventh. Brendan MacPhee led off the bottom of the inning with a double and almost got picked off second but avoid-



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Kingswood baseball coach Erick Bourdeau relaxes with the state championship sign while watching the Kingswood softball team play in the state championship game in Holderness.

ed the tag in a rundown and dived headfirst into third base as the winning run. Number nine hitter Bryan Purington then sliced a line drive over the drawn in infield into right field, igniting a celebration for the Knights as they picked up the program's first championship since 1998.

After a stop for lunch, the Knights didn't go home, instead riding the bus up Interstate 93 to Holderness where the Kingswood softball team was playing in the Division II championship for the third time in four years, looking for the program's second-consecutive title.

The defending champs, like their baseball brethren, gave the fans something to cheer about early on, scoring two runs in the bottom of the first and held that 2-0 lead until they added one more in the bottom of the sixth inning to upend rival Plymouth by a 3-0 score.

Miley Boisvert made a diving catch in right field

to end the game, setting off another celebration for the Knights in the same facility in which they celebrated last year after winning the program's first-ever state championship.

The two teams then boarded their respective buses and were met along the way by emergency vehicles for a grand parade from Tuftonboro through downtown Wolfeboro to Alumni Field, where the annual Grad Night celebration was taking place and the teams celebrated with their friends and families after the most successful day in Kingswood athletics history.

Add to that the individual championships won by track star Norah Pelletier earlier in the month of June and it was a pretty good spring season for the Knights.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.com.



COURTESY

The Gilford boys' tennis team won the Division III Sportsmanship Award for the recently concluded season.



DANIELLE COOK — COURTESY

The Prospect Mountain girls' tennis team won the Division III Sportsmanship Award for the spring season.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

REGION — After a season that saw two local teams reach their respective championships and others make their respective semifinals, there were a few locals honored when the state's tennis coaches voted for All-State honors.

For the Division II boys, First Team honors went to Jiles Tracz of Portsmouth, Brian Goddard of Souhegan, David Cuceu of Winnacunnet, Tyler Dionne of Goffstown, Mila Cocola of Bow and Arjun Inakkollu and John Torpey of Hollis-Brookline.

Second Team Division II went to Will Emerson and Ben Emerson of Milford, Coen Soucy of Goffstown, Amity Hay Tene of Portsmouth, Ethan Hall of Bow and Mikhail Agapov of Merrimack.

Tino Sepulveda of Hollis-Brookline was named the Division II Coach of the Year.

In Division III, Prospect Mountain's Lean Lamotte was named Division III Player of

the Year and was joined in First Team honors by Emma Rancloes of Berlin, Ally Onos and Jade Nicolas of Gilford, Tucker Dragon of Kearsarge, Stella Piatt of Trinity and Marianna Utell of Lebanon.

Emily Smith of Berlin was named Division III Second Team All-State along with Samyra Graber of Lebanon, Shiloh Poliquin of Kearsarge and Irina Steinberg of St. Thomas. Inter-Lakes and Prospect Mountain earned the Division III Sportsmanship Award and Rob Johnstone of Lebanon was named Division III Coach of the Year.

For the Division III boys, Caiyu Demaggio of Profile earned First Team honors and he was joined by Alex Molda (Player of the Year) and Aaron Molda of St. Thomas, Billy Reid of Kearsarge and Teddy Yap and Alex Pelletier of Bishop Brady.

The Gilford boys earned the Division III Sportsmanship Award and Adam Molda of St. Thomas was named the Division III Coach of

the Year. In Division II, Plymouth's Arianne Lee was named Division II First Team and the Plymouth boys earned the Division II Sportsmanship Award along with Hollis-Brookline.

Joining Lee in earning First Team honors for the girls were Callie Perrin of Souhegan (Player of the Year), Avery Porter of Portsmouth, Abby Robinson of Timberlane, Anna Heiplik of Hollis-Brookline and Lindsay St. Pierre of Manchester West.

Second Team honors in Division II went to Aia Tracz of Portsmouth, Ori Dart of Souhegan, Jessica Li of Oyster River, Haley Samuelson of ConVal, Camryn Andrews of Winnacunnet and Hailley Hannaford of Timberlane.

Portsmouth coach Wendy Poutre was named Division II Coach of the Year and Winnacunnet and Coe-Brown won the Sportsmanship Award for the division.

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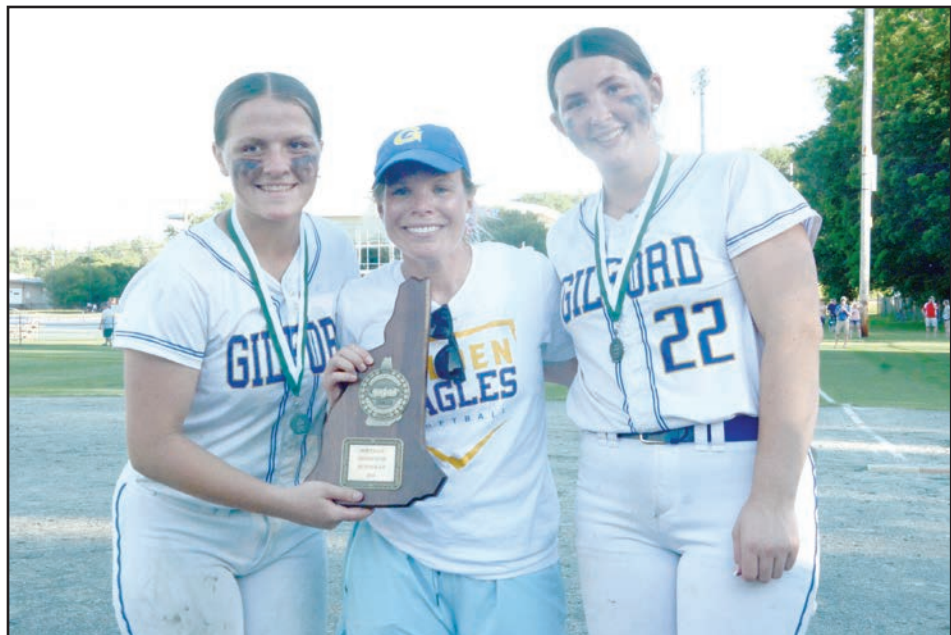
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JOSHUA SPAULDING

Gilford captains Mia Macaione and Belle Dow and coach Lisa Brace pose for a photo with the Division III runner-up plaque on Saturday afternoon.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Paityn Glidden charges toward her teammates after catching the final out of the Division III championship game on Saturday.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Gilford's Lucy Akerstrom takes a throw at third base during action in the Division III championship game on Saturday in Holderness.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Katie Smith rounds third on her way to scoring a run for Prospect Mountain in the Division III championship game.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Mia Macaione of Gilford dives back into first base as Prospect's Ashlynn Roberts takes the throw in championship game action on Saturday.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Gilford's Kate Taylor snares a fly ball to center during the Division III title game in Holderness on Saturday. With one out, but Dow got a pair of strikeouts to end the inning. Kate Taylor had a one-out single in the bottom of the fourth inning but Glidden made a great catch to end the inning.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sophia Bowman struck out seven Gilford batters during Saturday's Division III championship game.

SOFTBALL
(continued from Page A1)

a base hit and moved to second one out later when Paityn Glidden grounded to first base. She scored on a double from Kylee Guptill and the Timber Wolves had the 1-0 lead.

Prospect pitcher Sophia Bowman hit Gilford's Addison Hodsdon with one out in the top of the first inning, but the Golden Eagles could not score, as Bowman retired the next two batters. Dow worked around a walk to Leila Hillsgrove in the top of the second inning and Mia Macaione led off with a walk in the bottom of the frame. She moved up on a passed ball and took third on a sacrifice bunt from Taryn Limanni, but she was stranded at third base.

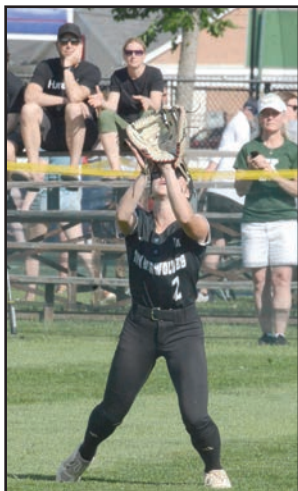
Glidden singled with two



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Gilford's Belle Dow struck out six Prospect Mountain hitters during the Division III championship on Saturday.

outs in the top of the third, but Dow retired the next batter to end the inning and then the Golden Eagles took the lead in the bottom of the third. With one out, Maddi Metz doubled and took third



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Paige Harding settles under a fly ball to center during action against Gilford in the Division III championship game.

on a Hodsdon sacrifice bunt before Dow homered over the fence in left field to give Gilford a 2-1 lead.

Bowman walked to lead off the top of the fourth and Hillsgrove worked a walk

game at four. One out later, the Timber Wolves walked Taylor before a popup ended the inning. Ashlynn Roberts led off the top of the sixth with a single and one out later, MacKenzie singled and Paige Harding walked to load the bases for Glidden, who promptly launched a grand slam to left field and Prospect Mountain had the 8-4 lead. After Guptill walked, Metz was able to gun down courtesy runner Katie Smith trying to steal second to end the inning.

Gilford came right back in the bottom of the inning. Lucy Akerstrom reached on an error and Leah Scudder beat out a bunt hit. Metz then singled and an error helped both runners score to cut the lead to 8-6. One out later, Metz scored on a groundout by Dow, cutting the lead to one after six innings.

Greenwood led off the top of the seventh with a triple and one out later, a Roberts sacrifice fly plated Prospect's ninth run of the game. Hodsdon made a nice play on a line drive to short to end the inning, giving Gilford one final chance.

Taylor worked a walk to lead off the inning and advanced on a bunt from Limanni. Akerstrom then reached on an error and Taylor raced around third to score, cutting the lead to one. Scudder reached on a dropped third strike before a fly ball to center and a line drive to second secured Prospect's fourth championship in five years.

"We tried every way possible to give that game away," Christie said. "I'm not taking it away from them (Gilford), they were earning it, but we had some terrible plays. "But kids did what they

were supposed to do," he added. "Hopefully you don't have to score nine, but sometimes you do. Facing a pitcher like that, that's not really what you want to do. But the kids were seeing the ball well and we put in a ton of work

The Timber Wolf coach also said, while he doesn't have a "favorite" championship, this one will be memorable after last season ended in a championship game loss to St. Thomas.

"Last year was so rough, we had so much pressure and so much expectations, everything about it hurt," Christie continued. "Gilford is so good, so scrappy, even when I thought we put them away, they just came right back."

Brace praised the work of her starting pitcher over the last four years, who helped pitch Gilford to two championship games during her career.

"Her composure, she can give up a grand slam and just be like 'whatever,'" the Golden Eagle coach noted. "And I know it's serious, but we try to focus on fun, we want to have fun."

Both teams finished the season at 15-1 with Gilford earning the top seed and Prospect finishing as the second seed. The Timber Wolves defeated Belmont and White Mountains Regional to advance to the finals while the Golden Eagles beat Winnisquam and defending champion St. Thomas to advance to the finals.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

Church Service SCHEDULE

ABUNDANT HARVEST FAMILY CHURCH
Sunday School for children up to age 12, service 10:30 a.m. Greater Wakefield Resource Center, 254 Main St., Union.
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ALTON BAY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER
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Foxx Run Farm brings petting zoo to Castle in the Clouds July 18 & 19

MOULTONBOROUGH — Castle in the Clouds will be partnering with Foxx Run Farm in Ossipee, NH, to host an exciting Petting Zoo Weekend. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 18 and 19, visitors of all ages will be able to meet, interact with, and learn about the variety of animals brought onsite by Foxx Run Farm.

A returning activity from the Castle's past, the Petting Zoo Weekend kicks off the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Castle Preservation Society (CPS). CPS was founded in 2006 to provide ongoing care and restoration of the Lucknow Mansion and Estate as a public attraction and museum. To commemorate this anniversary season, Castle in the Clouds plans to feature several nostalgic highlights from throughout the Estate's history, including the Petting Zoo Weekend. Castle in the Clouds previously featured a petting zoo on its grounds when the Lucknow Estate was first opened to the public by Richard Robie in 1959.

The Petting Zoo will be located in the Meadows by Shannon Pond



at Castle in the Clouds and can be accessed via the Ossipee Park Road entrance. Thanks to the generous support of sponsor Renewal by Anderson, the Petting Zoo Weekend event is a free program. Registration is encouraged but not required. Further details

and registration information can be found at castleintheclouds.org.

Foxx Run Farm was established in 2007 as a small hobby farm in Ossipee, NH. Operations have since grown into a working farm dedicated to developing sustainable farming

practices, biodiversity and regenerative agriculture with a second location in Hiram, ME. Foxx Run Farm offers lessons, camp days and farm stays to allow visitors to experience a working farm and learn about sustainable farming practices. Find more

information about their operations and mission at foxxrunfarm.com.

About Castle in the Clouds

As the premier historical museum in the beautiful Lakes Region of New Hampshire, Castle in the Clouds provides each visitor with a look into the past while providing contemporary comforts to make every visit memorable. Originally called Lucknow, this breathtaking 6,300-acre property was developed in 1913 by Thomas G. Plant, a wealthy shoe manufacturer, to create a luxurious lifestyle with state-of-the-art amenities, beautiful hand-made furnishings, and a large staff to run the estate. These days, visitors come from all around the world to tour the mansion and exhibit gallery, dine in the Carriage House Restaurant

or Café in the Clouds, hike miles of hiking and walking trails maintained by partner organization the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, or enjoy one of our many programs and events. Operated by the Castle Preservation Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Castle in the Clouds is revered as a cultural and educational resource, with the Lucknow Estate listed on the National Register of Historic Places with national significance in 2018 and designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark in 2024. Castle in the Clouds is also available as a fairytale wedding venue and versatile private event rental. For more information about Castle in the Clouds, visit www.castleintheclouds.org.

Area residents graduate from Mercer University

MACON/ATLANTA, Ga. — Mercer University conferred Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral degrees to more than 2,200 students at four commencements held in May in Macon and Atlanta, including McKenzie Burke of Alton, who received a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Founded in 1833, Mercer University is a dynamic and comprehensive center of undergraduate, graduate and professional education.

The University enrolls approximately 9,000 students in 12 schools and colleges - liberal arts and sciences, law, pharmacy, medicine, business, engineering, education, theology, music, nursing, health professions and professional advancement - on major campuses in Macon and Atlanta; medical school sites in Macon, Savannah and Columbus; and at regional academic centers in Henry and Douglas counties.

Tenacious Loon Cam pair incubating fourth egg

MOULTONBOROUGH — After losing three eggs to a remarkable series of setbacks (including a group of playful otters, swarms of black flies, and mink predation—the Lakes Region loon pair featured on the Loon Preservation Committee's Live Loon Cam is once again incubating an egg in an attempt to produce a chick this season.

"Nesting loons face many challenges," said Harry Vogel, Senior Biologist and Executive Director of the Loon Preservation Committee. "The Live Loon Cam offers viewers a rare glimpse into the trials and tribulations that New Hampshire's loons endure as they work to hatch their chicks."

The female of the Loon Cam pair laid her first egg of the season on May 22. Loons typically lay two eggs per clutch, and they will not incubate the first egg consistently until the second

has been laid. In the early morning hours of May 24, before the second egg was laid, a group of six otters climbed onto the unattended nest raft. Although the otters did not eat the egg, they climbed onto the cover of the nest raft, and their combined weight collapsed the cover and smashed the egg sitting below.

Later that same day, the pair laid a second egg. However, in the days that followed, heavy swarms of black flies appeared to prevent the loons from sitting on the nest for more than a few seconds at a time, and the pair eventually abandoned the egg.

Because the failure occurred early in the nesting season, the loons had time to try again. Loons often re-nest after an early nesting failure, typically beginning a new attempt 8-18 days later.

Just after midnight on June 10, the female laid the first egg of their second

nesting attempt. Unfortunately, just 90 minutes later, a mink swam to the nest raft and ate this third egg.

Undeterred, the female of the pair laid another egg, the second of the second clutch and fourth overall, on June 12. Because this egg was the second egg of the clutch, the loons immediately began to incubate it consistently. If successful, the egg is expected to hatch between July 8th and July 10th.

Throughout their incubation period, loon nests face a variety of threats. In addition to natural challenges such as predation and black flies, loon nests may fail because of human disturbance, flooding or stranding caused by changing water levels, or swamping from boat wakes.

Those planning to boat, fish, or hike around New Hampshire's lakes during the nesting season are urged to be

mindful of nesting loons. If a loon nest is seen, it should be given plenty of space—at least 150 feet, and further if the nesting loon shows signs of distress such as lowering its head over the nest. Anyone who accidentally flushes a loon from its nest should leave the area immediately so the bird can feel comfortable enough to return and resume incubation. Boaters are also encouraged to follow New Hampshire's no-wake laws in order to help prevent nests from being swamped.

The Loon Preservation Committee monitors loons throughout the state as part of its mission to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons in New Hampshire; to monitor the health and productivity of loon populations as sentinels of environmental quality; and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world.



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THE REAL REPORT

RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Town	Address	Type	Price	Seller	Buyer
Alton	Old New Durham Road	N/A	\$301,000	Tiffany E. and Crystal A. Couto	Sharon Joy Sarkisian and Adam Saucier
Barnstead	71 Windsor Way	Single-Family Residence	\$393,533	Michele S. Guzofski RET	Jacob Leighton and Roza Dimitrieva
Gilford	286 Dockham Shore Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$904,000	Gilford Cottage RET and David A. Chase	McMahon Fiscal Trust and Stacey E. McMahon
Gilford	283 Gilford Ave.	Multi-Family Residence	\$359,000	Elizabeth M. Spencer	Mos LLC
Gilford	73 Weirs Rd.	Other Exempt	\$280,000	Michael W. Dion RET	Coleman Fiscal Trust and Kenneth R. Coleman, Jr.
Gilford	N/A	N/A	\$190,000	Joseph C. and Diana M. Ricci	Matthew Gault
Gilford	N/A (Lot 2-81)	N/A	\$505,000	Susan E. Gibb 2024 Trust	Kristin O'Hara and Martin Byrne
Gilmanton	Munsey Hill Road	N/A	\$116,000	Ernest R. and Linda Hudziec	Charles S., Jr. and Claire G. Toner
New Durham	Davis Crossing Road (NS)	Residential Open Land	\$599,933	Jonathan F. Taylor	David A. Bickford
New Durham	Old Bay Road	N/A	\$599,933	Jonathan F. Taylor	David A. Bickford
New Durham	5 Winsor Way	Single-Family Residence	\$320,000	Michael F. Feeney	James Keely Reed

ABOUT THE REAL REPORT

Here are recent real estate transactions in Alton and the surrounding areas. These sales summaries are informational only, not a legal record. Names shown are usually the first listed in the deed. Sales might involve additional parties or locations. Prices are usually based on tax stamps and might be inaccurate for public agency sales. Refer to actual public documents before forming opinions or relying on this information. Additional publicly recorded information on these sales, prior sales and data from Department of Revenue Administration forms is available at www.real-data.com or 669-3822. Copyright 2011. Real Data Corp. In the column "Type": land= land only; L/B= land and building; MH= mobile home; and COND=condominium. Transactions provided by The Warren Group, Boston Ma., publishers of The Registry Review and Bankers and Tradesman newspapers, Phone: 1-800-356-8805. Website: www.thewarrengroup.com



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Concord Hospital - Laconia staff cultivate healing and community in rooftop garden

LACONIA — What began as a simple idea to improve a shared outdoor space has blossomed into a labor of love for staff at Concord Hospital – Laconia, transforming the hospital’s rooftop garden into a welcoming retreat.

For the second consecutive year, members of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) team have volunteered their personal time to beautify and expand the rooftop garden on the hospital’s third-floor patio. Led by ICU Licensed Nursing Assistant Joshua Brown, the project reflects a shared vision of creating a therapeutic environment where people can find a moment of peace away from the clinical setting.

“Our goal is to make this a space where patients, families, and staff can take a break, enjoy some fresh air, and focus on something positive,” said Brown. “Hospitals can be stressful places. We wanted to create a garden that offers comfort, relaxation, and a sense of connection.”

Over the past several months, Brown and fellow staff members have dedicated countless volunteer hours to restoring and enhancing the space. Together, they scrubbed the patio flooring and metal walls, removed accumulated moss, painted existing raised garden beds, added new flowerpots, and constructed an additional cedar raised garden bed.

The team also partnered with Osbornes Farm & Garden Center through Coast of Maine’s Growing Good Program. In addition, a staff member’s husband built custom trellises for climbing



COURTESY

From left, Delia Shepard, RN, Josh Brown, LNA, Heather Pearl, LNA/HUC, and Christine Bastille, HUC, pose for a photo in Concord Hospital – Laconia’s rooftop garden. This group is a small representation of the volunteers who built, improved on, and continue to maintain the garden to provide a restful space for staff, patients, and visiting family members.

vegetables, helping bring the team’s vision to life.

Today, the garden includes four raised beds and multiple planters growing a variety of plants, including tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, peppers, carrots, butternut squash, pumpkins, and sunflowers. Staff plans to add colorful annual flowers to the patio weeks, and harvestable produce is available for anyone to pick.

While the garden is maintained entirely by staff volunteers during breaks and outside of work hours, patients are also encouraged to participate. Last year, one long-term patient became an enthusiastic partner in the project, helping water the plants throughout the growing season.

“That patient really took ownership of helping care for the garden,” Brown said. “She watered the plants regularly and took great pride in watching everything grow. We like to joke

that she was responsible for our bumper crop of pumpkins. We’re hoping we can create that same opportunity for patients again this year.”

The project recently received another boost when Concord Hospital’s Chief Advancement Officer, Veronica Rosa, worked with hospital leadership to secure funding for replacement patio umbrellas, helping make the space more comfortable and accessible during the warmer months.

“I’m incredibly proud of the initiative Joshua and his colleagues have shown,” Rosa said. “Their dedication demonstrates how much our staff cares about creating a healing environment, not just through clinical care, but through thoughtful touches that improve the experience for everyone who comes through our doors.”

Hospital leadership also praised the team’s efforts and the project’s broader impact.

“We want to recog-

nize the work staff have volunteered to do to make this space a refuge for all to enjoy,” said Tim Paris, director of facility operations for Concord Hospital. “Their commitment has transformed the rooftop garden into something truly special, and we are happy to support a vision that benefits patients, families, and staff alike.”

For Brown and his fellow volunteers, the

garden is about more than flowers and vegetables. It represents community, healing, and the power of small acts of kindness.

“Whether someone spends five minutes here or an hour, we hope the garden helps them feel better,” Brown said. “If it gives a patient, family member, or coworker a chance to step away from stress and enjoy a peaceful moment, then all the work is worth it.”

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Songwriter Round-Up lineup set for June 25

MEREDITH — The partnership between Katie Dobbins Music (Gilford) and Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery (Meredith) which has brought the monthly music series Songwriter Round-Up to the Lakes Region is set to deliver another great show at the end of this month. Held in the region's premier listening room, The Loft located on the second floor of the Winery, this series has been giving audience members a chance to experience the original music of talented singer-songwriters from the New England area and beyond. At each show three artists share their songs and stories in a unique in-the-round style performance. Presented on the last Thursday of each month, this intimate series features two different songwriters each month alongside host performer Katie Dobbins.

The series offers area residents and visitors an opportunity to experience the show "magic" that each



new lineup creates. Winery co-founder and owner Bob Manley is thrilled to have his establishment be home to the monthly Songwriter Round-Up Series.

Remarking on the success of the series, Manley reaffirms the valued partnership the Winery has developed with Katie Dobbins Music expressing "Working alongside Katie Dobbins and her Songwriter Round-Up Series has been an absolute delight. Katie brings an engaging presence to the stage, ef-

fortlessly connecting with our audiences and showcasing incredible talent with each performance."

The next Songwriter Round-Up show takes place on Thursday, June 25, featuring the Lakes Region's own Katie Dobbins, a singer-songwriter who delivers heart-felt lyrics with beautiful vocal tones wrapped in guitar and piano melodies; Michael Suddes, an indie folk singer-songwriter raised in Connecticut known for heartfelt honest songs delivered through

a unique musical voicing; and Shannon Davis, a singer-songwriter based in Portland, Maine with thoughtful lyrics and haunting vocals. All of these artists bring their own unique life-lyrics, melodies, and styles to the stage. This will be an evening of great original music and dynamic entertainment that you won't want to miss. Learn more about each of these artists on the Hermit Woods Winery website.

A complimentary wine tasting will begin at 5:30 p.m., the Loft opens at 6pm for seating & dinner orders, and music starts at 7 p.m. Patrons can further enhance their evening by selecting from a menu of tasty items available from onsite Chef Eric Huckins. Tickets can be purchased in advance at hermitwoodswinery.com/the-loft or in-person at the Winery.

Alton Business Association presents scholarship to Prospect Mountain senior

ALTON — The Alton Business Association is proud to announce that Joshua Clark, a graduating senior at Prospect Mountain High School, has been awarded the 2026 Alton Business Association Scholarship.

The scholarship was presented on Wednesday, June 10, during the Prospect Mountain Scholarship awards ceremony. The ABA Scholarship recognizes a graduating Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) senior who demonstrates leadership and a commitment to their future.



"This scholarship is our way of investing in the future of our community. Congratulations to Joshua on this well-deserved recognition," said Sarah Godrum, Chairperson of the Alton Business Association.

The Alton Business Association is committed to supporting the next gener-

ation of business leaders in the Lakes Region through mentorship, community connection, and opportunities like this scholarship.

For more information about the Alton Business Association, visit altonbusinessassociation.com or contact info@altonbusinessassociation.com.

Russell Wilder updates Rotarians on keeping the mountain range open



COURTESY PHOTO

Russell Wilder, Chairman of the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition (BRCC), and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) is thanked by Alton Rotary Club President Duane Hammond for his PowerPoint presentation to Rotary club members. Wilder spoke about the many acres his organizations acquired to keep open the Belknap range for hiking, trails, and camping. His organizations continue to seek more land to protect in Belknap County.

ALTON — Chairman of the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition (BRCC), and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT), Russell Wilder, showed a power point presentation to members of Alton Rotary Club about his two organizations and how they work together with regional town commissions and land trusts to purchase land rights and conservation easements throughout the Belknap range. Their core mission is to prevent future development and keep the mountain range open for low-impact recreational use like hiking and camping.

To date, his efforts have resulted in the "purchase" of thirty-three thousand acres of land in the Belknap range. The BRCC, nor the LRCT owns any land, and the property remains in the hands of the owners; however, the property owners do relinquish developmental rights forever. The Alton Rotary Club dinner meetings are held the first and third Monday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Alton Community Center, 7 Pearson Rd., Alton. Rotary is a non-profit, non-religious, and non-political, worldwide organization dedicated to serving their communities. For informa-

tion on becoming a member, contact: Duane Hammond, 569-3745.

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